

**Farm Service Agency****NEWS RELEASE**

USDA, FSA Honolulu County FSA Office, 99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, #114, Aiea, HI 96701

**USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY – 2003 & 2004 CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Honolulu, Hawaii, March 25, 2005 — The United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency has announced that eligible producers may sign-up for USDA's new Crop Disaster Program at your nearest USDA Service Center. The Crop Disaster Program authorizes crop loss assistance for producers who suffered 2003 or 2004 crop losses from damaging weather. The application deadline for the Crop Disaster Program will be announced at a later date.

Eligibility for this disaster program is similar to previous USDA crop disaster programs. Producers suffering a greater than 35-percent production loss and/or more than a 20-percent quality loss are eligible. However, the payment rate has been increased to 65 percent of the established commodity price for insured crops and noninsured crops, and 60 percent of the price for uninsured commodities.

Yields will be calculated using the producer's Actual Production History (APH) yield or the county average yield. Prices will be 65 percent of the county average price for insured and noninsured crops and 60 percent of the county average price for uninsured crops.

To be eligible for CDP a producer must have suffered a qualifying loss due to natural disasters or events in excess of 35 percent of the expected production for the crop and:

- certify eligible crop losses and crop acreage on form CCC-750.
- certify "person" determinations on form CCC-502,
- certify conservation compliance on form AD-1026,
- certify compliance with Adjusted Gross Income provisions on form CCC-526, and
- certify crop acreage on form FSA-578. Acreage reports will be accepted when the producer provides acceptable evidence of the existence and disposition of the crop according to this table. Planting dates are required.
- purchase crop insurance or noninsured crop disaster coverage for the two ensuing crop years. Failure to purchase coverage will result in a refund of any CDP payment plus interest.

USDA Service Centers in the State of Hawaii are accepting appointments from farmers who are interested in submitting an application at the following locations:

**Honolulu County FSA Office**

Phone: (808) 483-8600

Fax: (808) 483-8615

**Hawaii County FSA Office**

Phone: (808) 933-8381

Fax: (808) 933-8345

**Kauai County FSA Office**

Phone: (808) 245-9014

Fax: (808) 246-4639

**Maui County FSA Office**

Phone: (808) 244-3100

Fax: (808) 242-7005

For more information on the Farm Service Agency and the Crop Disaster Program, visit USDA's website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/>

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